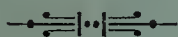
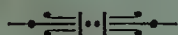


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Nantyglo and Blaina Local
Board.



Medical Officer's
A
ANNUAL REPORT.



Reprinted from the
“ South Wales Gazette.”



ABERTILLERY :
W. R. Haylings, Printer, Publisher, &c.
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HEALTH OF THE BLAINA DISTRICT.

At the monthly meeting of the Nantyglo and Blaina Local Board held on Thursday, February 22nd, Dr. H. C. Bevan presented his annual report, which was as follows:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—There were registered in the district during the year 1893, 550 births—271 males and 279 females—and 324 deaths—171 males and 153 females. Assuming the population to be 13,000, this gives a birthrate of 42.3 and a deathrate of 24.9 per 1000 for this period.

SUMMARY OF ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The above deaths include the following from zymotic diseases.—Scarlatina 3, diphtheria 1, membranous croup 1, typhoid fever, 3, puerperal fever 2, measles 49, whooping cough 5, diarrhœa 22, influenza 14; in all 100, thus accounting for 7.7 of the death-rate for the year.

SCARLATINA

caused one death on January 9th in the upper part of the district, after which time no cases came to my knowledge until March, when it re-appeared at Nantyglo, and at the New Houses and the West Side, Blaina. The number of cases was, however, inconsiderable, and were, so far as possible, isolated. After this month, there were but very few cases until June, when it showed a tendency to increase at Nantyglo, causing two deaths (one in June and one in July), and one case appeared in Queen-street, Blaina. A few fresh cases continued to crop up at Nantyglo until the end of August. After this month the district was apparently free from scarlatina until the end of the year, with the exception of one case in Cross-street, Blaina, in October.

CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

Beyond the case of membranous croup which ended fatally at Penywain Farm on September 3rd, and that of diphtheria which ended fatally on September 15th, no other cases of these diseases came to my notice.

TYPHOID FEVER.

In January there were 7 cases of typhoid fever in the district, viz :—Two at 5 Colliers'-row, one at 6 Colliers'-row, one at 2 Cross-street, one at 3 High-street, one at 15 Garn-road, and one at 48 King-street. Two cases appeared in February, one at Solomon's Tump and one at 15 Forge-row. Five fresh cases came under notice in March, viz :—One at 25 Twynderin, one at 14 Forge-row, one at 15 Garn-road, one at 94 Abertillery-road, and one at 4 Princes-street. At the end of April one fresh case appeared at 18 Twynderin, and ended fatally on the 15th of the following month. In May two fresh cases—one at 19 Vaughan-square and the other at 25 Princes-street—showed themselves, and in June two cases were reported—one at 16 Mount Pleasant and the other at 20 Twynderin. One case came to my knowledge in July at 19 Pump-street, and in August there was one case at 2 Parrot-row and one at 4 Railway-terrace, the latter ending fatally on the 7th September. No fresh cases appeared in September, but in October three fresh cases came to my knowledge, viz :—One at 23 Abertillery-road, which ended fatally on the 16th December ; one at 10 Fourth-row, New Houses ; and one at 14 Parson's-row. In November two cases were reported to me at 87 Queen-street, Nantyglo. The patients in this house had but recently come into the district from the Rhondda Valley, and I think it only fair to assume the possibility of their having brought the infection with them, though they had been in this district before the disease shewed itself for a rather longer time than the usual incubation period of typhoid fever, but on arrival did not live at 87 Queen-street. Indeed, they had been but a few days in this house before the first patient was laid up. One other case was under treatment this month at 42 Hope-street, but there were no fresh cases after this during the year. Thus, although there were in all 28 cases of typhoid fever, only in January and March were there many cases under treatment at the same time. The five cases reported for March were sufficiently scattered throughout the district to make any connection between the sources of infection impossible. Of the seven cases in January, three occurred at Nos. 5 and 6 Colliers'-row, and had most probably a common origin. The sources of the remaining four were apparently independent of each other.

INSANITARY SURROUNDINGS.

With some of the houses in which these typhoid cases occurred, and with their surroundings, it was impossible to find any serious defects from a sanitary point of view. In the majority of cases, however, the houses or drains, or both, were in an insanitary condition. At Nos. 5 and 6 Colliers'-row the closets were unprovided with pans and traps, which has now been rectified. The closet serving No. 2 Cross-street was in a filthy state; a new one has been erected. At No. 3 High-street the drain was defective; a new one has been laid and the closet properly connected. At No. 48 King-street the new sewer, which was most improperly laid, has been replaced by a new one. At No. 15 Garn-road the house closet and drains appeared to be in good condition. At Solomon's Tump the closet was in a very bad state of repair; a new one has been built. At No. 15 Forge-row the drains were very bad, and not connected; since then, however, they have been flushed, re-laid, and connected with your sewer, but the closets have not yet been completed. At No. 25 Twynderin the closet—a dry earth one—appeared clean, and the house, too, seemed in good sanitary condition. There is no public drain in Twynderin. The drain serving the closet of 18 Twynderin was in a very bad state, but has since been improved. Even now, however, the drain only leads to the cinder tip, where—there being no vegetation—its contents are not used up as manure, and are thereby rendered innocuous, and must depend upon other and less certain processes for the accomplishment of this desirable result. The drainage of No. 19 Vaughan-square was in a bad state; most of the drains in the Square were choked. New drains have been laid here, and six new closets erected for these houses. At No. 25 Princes-street the closets and drainage appeared to be satisfactory. At No. 16 Mount Pleasant the closet was in a bad condition and unprovided with pan and trap, and an uncemented drain passed under the house. A pan and trap have since been fixed and the drain passing under the house cemented. The same remarks apply to No. 20 as to No. 18 Twynderin. Two or three weeks before typhoid fever appeared at 19 Pump-street, the closet serving this house became flooded during a storm, and part of its contents were washed into the house. The closet and drain now appear to be in good condition

and to work well. At No. 2 Parrot-row the closet was choked, caused by a stoppage in the main sewer, and its contents escaped over the road. The obstruction in the sewer has been removed by your workmen. At No. 4 Railway-terrace the pan and trap of the closet were broken. A notice was served on the owner, and it has been remedied. Nothing unsatisfactory could be found with the sanitary arrangements at No. 10 Fourth-row, New Houses. At No. 23 Abertillery-road the drain for carrying house water was untrapped. The drain, which was outside the house, has since been trapped. Nothing of an insanitary nature could be found at No. 14 Parson's-row. No. 87 Queen-street, Nantyglo, was a very small house, built at the back of another, and therefore badly ventilated. It has since been connected with the house in front, forming one house with through ventilation. The patients here probably became infected before coming to live in the house. The sanitary arrangements at No. 42 Hope-street appeared to be good.

MIDWIVES AND THEIR PATIENTS.

Of the two deaths from puerperal fever, the first took place on March 7th at the Twins Houses, Coedcae, and the second at 7 Parson's-row on October 7th. No satisfactory cause for the disease could be found in either of these cases. In connection with this matter, however, it is perhaps well to refer to the practice that obtains here of the midwives being the persons who are called in to lay out the bodies of the dead for burial. It is very possible, especially when there are zymotic diseases in the district,—and we are rarely without some one or other of these diseases—for midwives, after laying out bodies, to carry infection to their lying-in patients. If the midwives refrained from other work than that of midwifery the very grave danger of carrying infection to lying-in patients, in this manner at least, would be averted.

EPIDEMIC OF MEASLES.

In June measles made its appearance in the upper part of the district, and during the next two months extended very freely throughout Nantyglo and that part of Garnvach which is north of Hermon Chapel. As in August there were no cases of measles south of Hermon, an attempt was made to prevent its spread into the lower portion of the district by prohibiting

the children south of Hermon from attending school. Notwithstanding this, however, a case appeared in Abertillery-road early in September, and spread during that and the following month through Blaina and the lower portion of the district. In view of the severity of the epidemic in Blaina, the schools were closed for nearly three weeks after the 18th October. This appeared to have a good effect, as the epidemic considerably diminished towards the end of the month and the early part of November. About a fortnight after the schools were re-opened there was a slight exacerbation of the epidemic, which had almost completely died out so far as fresh cases were concerned. It was, however, sufficiently slight to leave a doubt as to whether it was due to the re-opening of the schools, or merely a coincidence. The number of cases probably reached 1000. The cases, in Blaina principally, and more especially at the commencement of the epidemic in this part of the district, were of an exceptionally virulent type, some of the victims dying within two or three days from the onset of the illness.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Of the five deaths from whooping cough, one took place in February, one in March, one in April, and two in May. Though whooping cough prevailed throughout the first half of the year, at no one time was there any considerable number of cases. It was a bad preparation in those affected for the measles epidemic which followed late in the year.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHŒA.

The dates of the deaths from diarrhœa, together with the localities in which they occurred, are tabulated below:—

1893.

July 11th.—56 Cwmcelyn-road.

„ 14th.—33 Church-street.

„ 16th.—114 Queen-street, Garnvach.

„ 25th.—7 Queen-street, Garnvach.

„ 21st.—28 Shop-row.

„ 31st.—Whimberry-row.

August 5th.—13 Shinton's-row.

„ 9th.—131 High-street.

„ 16th.—127 High-street.

„ 17th.—73 Garn-road.

„ 17th.—113 Queen-street, Garnvach.

- Aug. 22nd.—New Houses, Blaina.
 „ 25th.—11 Inkerman-row.
 „ 25th.—140 High-street.
 „ 26th.—68 Queen-street, Garnvach.
 Sept. 1st.—5 Inkerman-row.
 „ 9th.—3 Second-row, New Houses.
 „ 19th.—9 Stone's Houses.
 „ 20th.—26 Abertillery-road.
 „ 20th.—26 Abertillery-road.
 „ 26th.—32 Garn Cross.
 Nov. 18th.—41 Hope-street.

The epidemic of diarrhœa, which was very extensive during the summer and early part of the autumn, was more severely felt in the lower part of the district. It is quite impossible to make more than the wildest guess as to the number of cases in this epidemic, because no doubt a large number of mild cases were not treated at all.

INFLUENZA.

At no time during the year were we free from influenza. The number of cases was greater in January and November than at any other time. The deaths from this disease occurred as follows :—January 2, April 1, October 3, November 5, December 3.

ERYSIPELAS.

In January there was a case of eysipelas at 42 Princes-street, in March one at 28 Garn-road, and in July one at 1 Cross-street, and one at Globe Pit-row.

MUMPS AND GERMAN MEASLES.

There were a few cases of mumps in the early part of the year, and a case of German measles in Hope-street in August. In the latter part of October there was a considerable number of cases of German measles in the lower part of the district, none of which proved fatal.

The above is a summarised account of the occurrence of zymotic diseases in the district during the year 1893, together with remarks which have been suggested by their appearance.

OTHER CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

Six of the deaths during the year were accidental. Phthisis, including tuberculosis, generally, caused fifteen deaths. The arrangements in connection with the Isolation Hospital are now, I think, practically complete.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.

I would suggest the following sanitary improvements as most urgently calling for attention. A public sewer should be laid for Boot-row, and owners compelled to connect their drains with it. The rain and surface water from Boot-row finds its way into the Boot Inn and the next house. A more thorough system of scavenging is required at Nantyglo, and at the New Houses at the lower part of Blaina. The scavenging of the closets serving the houses at the West-side of Colliers'-row should be more carefully performed, or these closets should be converted into water closets.

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Your Inspector (Mr. John Collins) has supplied me with the following list of sanitary matters attended to during the year:—

Legal notices served.....	98
Verbal " " ".....	169
New houses built and occupied.....	63
New w.c.'s erected for new houses.....	62
" " " " old houses.....	19
Dry earth closets erected.....	3
Privies converted to w.c.'s.....	9
Removal of swine too near houses.....	47
Pig's wash tubs removed.....	41
Removal of accumulations of manure.....	32
Foul closets abated.....	59
Foul gutters and choked drains abated.....	47

About 950 feet of new socket pipe drains have been provided by owners for houses and closets, and the same have been connected with the Board's sewers.—Three double houses situated at Queen-street, Garnvach, have been converted into through houses.—Slaughter-houses, cowsheds and dairies, have been duly visited.—Ten owners have not complied with the Board's notices."

The Chairman (Mr. J. P. D. Williams) proposed that the best thanks of the Board be accorded the Medical Officer of Health for his able and practical report, and that it be printed for distribution.—Ald. G. R. Harris seconded.—The vote was carried unanimously, and Dr. Bevan acknowledged.



